

**IMPROVED APPLICATION PORTABILITY AND EXTENSIBILITY
THROUGH DATABASE SCHEMA AND QUERY ABSTRACTION**

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The present invention generally is directed to a system, method and article of manufacture for accessing data independent of the particular manner in which the data is physically represented. In one embodiment, a data repository abstraction layer provides a logical view of the underlying data repository that is independent of the particular manner of data representation. A query abstraction layer is also provided and is based on the data repository abstraction layer. A runtime component performs translation of an abstract query into a form that can be used against a particular physical data representation.